

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2010 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 7

7 points

Parts (a) and (b): 4 points

One point is earned for each accurate identification of the differences in the level of conventional forms of participation.

Acceptable differences include:

- More British turn out (61 percent) than do Nigerians (49 percent).
- More Nigerians (74 percent) discuss politics than do British (46 percent).
- More British sign a petition (81 percent) than do Nigerians (7 percent).

One point is earned for each accurate explanation of the differences in the level of conventional forms of participation.

Acceptable explanations may include:

- Voter turnout rates
 - Strong People's Democratic Party may lead to lack of competition.
 - There are more barriers to participation in Nigeria.
 - Election-day disturbances occur in Nigeria.
 - Nigeria has remote polling places.
 - There is a history of election fraud in Nigeria.
 - Britain has a larger number of party identifiers.
 - Britain has more democratic stability.
 - British electoral and party stability encourages participation.
 - British political culture encourages voting as a citizen's duty.
- Difference in rates of political discussions
 - Personalist nature of Nigerian society leads to greater discussion of politics.
 - Nigerian communal practices lead to more social interaction.
 - The British are more likely to keep political views private.
 - Class consciousness (haves versus have nots).
 - Campaigns in Britain are shorter, so there is less opportunity to discuss politics.
- Difference in rates of signing petitions
 - Nigerians are apprehensive about signing documents for fear of retribution.
 - The British are reluctant to protest; signing a petition is easier than other forms of protest.
 - Higher literacy rates in Britain enable the British to engage in written forms of protest.
 - The British believe they have efficacy and that petitioning can have an impact on policymakers.

Note: Corruption does not earn a point unless it is linked to other factors. Ethnic differences do not earn a point unless they are linked to other factors.

Part (c): 2 points

One point is earned for describing a specific incident of violent activity in Great Britain in the last fifteen years.

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Question 7 (continued)

Acceptable incidents of violent activity in Great Britain may include:

- 2005 London bombings
- 2007 Scottish airport bombing

Note: IRA activity does not earn a point unless it refers to a specific incident or is put in context. No point is awarded for an ongoing conflict or series of attacks unless a specific context is included.

One point is earned for describing a specific incident of violent activity in Nigeria in the last fifteen years.

Acceptable incidents of violent activity in Nigeria may include:

- kidnappings of engineers
- oil workers taking over platforms
- blowing up pipelines
- violence at the polls
- violent protests over elections

Note: Ethnic conflict, or a series of attacks, does not earn a point unless a specific context is included.

Part (d): 1 point

One point is earned for an explanation of why citizens might choose violent acts over conventional forms of participation.

Acceptable explanations include:

- Citizens do not feel the government is legitimate.
- Citizens' voices will not be heard through conventional participation.
- Lack of viable alternatives/forms of participation leads to frustration among citizens.
- There are norms of accepting political violence.
- Violence gains the attention of the press/government/international community.

Note: Corruption does not earn a point unless it is linked to efficacy. Students might provide an explanation for Great Britain and a different explanation for Nigeria. This is acceptable for a point as long as both arguments are correct.

A score of 0 is earned for an attempted answer that merits no points.

A score of dash (–) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.

- ⑦ A) According to the table, citizens in Britain are much more inclined to sign petitions than are citizens in Nigeria. The difference exists because British citizenships have ~~viewed themselves~~ historically viewed themselves as active participants in the political system. In other words, British citizens have greater ~~strong~~ political efficacy than do Nigerian citizens. This contrasts with the fact that Nigerian citizens have historically viewed themselves as subjects, not as active participants in the political system. This is a reflection of the colonial legacy in Nigeria (when Nigeria was under the control of Britain between 1860 and 1960). As such, Nigerians are less likely to challenge government policies through petitions.
- B) The table also indicates that a greater percentage of Britons vote than do Nigerians. This can be explained by the fact that Nigerians tend to view their government as being highly corrupt. In light of the controversies surrounding the legitimacy of ^{the} recent presidential elections in Nigeria, this is not surprising (since there were many allegations of such things as ballot-box-stuffing ~~and~~ - British ~~overall~~ ~~land~~ citizens, on the other hand, tend to trust their political institutions and their election system ~~but not in some~~ (especially when compared to Nigerians).
- C) One specific incident of violent political activity in Great Britain was the terrorist bombings in London in 2005. Another incident ~~was~~ occurred when a couple of British soldiers were shot and killed in Northern Ireland by ~~a~~ radical element of the IRA.

In Nigeria, violence erupted in 2007 when citizens who were outraged about the allegations of electoral fraud took to the streets and clashed with the police. Hundreds were killed in the violent confrontations that ensued.

D) Citizens may choose violent acts over more conventional forms of political participation because they feel that government is unresponsive to them and that they have been ~~marginalized~~ marginalized by the political process. As such, they may feel as though the government will only respond to them if they turned to violence. Violence may also be a reflection of the frustration that citizens feel as a result of political corruption or fraud.

A large difference between Great Britain and Nigeria is the voter turnout. Great Britain's is at 61% while Nigeria's is at 49%. The participation in Great Britain may be higher because people in the UK believe that elections are legitimate. They know that the votes would have been counted fairly and would be free of fraud. In Nigeria the people normally don't trust the outcomes of their elections. They don't think the elections will be fair so they don't see a point in voting. The past history of Nigerian elections give them the reasons to believe this.

A huge difference in participation in Nigeria and Great Britain is Signing a Petition. The UK is at 81% while Nigeria is only at 7%. This is because in the UK social movements and civil society are so much more recognized and respected. Civil society and social movements are much more likely to be listened to in the UK than in Nigeria. That's because the civil society in the UK is much stronger and there is more of a chance the government will look at it. In Nigeria it would be harder to get ideas organized and to band people together. The civil society isn't as strong. Also, it is much less likely that the government

of Nigeria will listen to it.

An incident of violence in the UK in the past 15 years has been caused by the IRA in Northern Ireland. They caused this violence due to their wish that Northern Ireland be part of Ireland and not the UK. An incident of violence in Nigeria has been the coup that created the Fourth Republic that is Nigeria's government today. This was one of many coups that have made Nigeria's history or change in government.

In the UK the IRA may have used violent acts as a way to get their point across in a big way. The members may have felt that violence was the only answer. Another reason for this violence may have been hatred for the English. This is probably long standing hatred that goes back hundreds of years. The Irish have always resented the English. In Nigeria it was dissatisfaction with the regime in place. Lack of the ability of the government to put in a solid infrastructure and build a strong economy. Also, because the government was weak it was probably the easiest way to take control. Often, this is the case with weak regimes and they can be easily overthrown using force.

① The differences in participation between Great Britain and Nigeria vary because for voting Great Britain has a parliamentary system so that means that a group of appointed council controls how the government works and allows for the people to vote and have more interaction and be involved. In Nigeria they have a unitary system so for a small group of people are in charge and people in the country have little or no say at all in the government's decisions. I feel like the way the systems work is why the participation is a big gap of difference between the 2 countries.

② In signing a petition Great Britain has more participation because they have more involvement with the government. They are more likely to go against or for something because they know more and are able to do more. Nigeria doesn't have much of a say and don't really know much about their government to contribute. Or they aren't allowed to have a say, like it's against the rules.

③ One violent political activity in Great Britain that happened was voting. People had issues over who would be next in charge causing lots of deaths. One violent political activity in Nigeria is for women. They would be abused by men. They had no

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Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

7C
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say in what men would do to them. They couldn't control it. And the men wouldn't get in trouble for this.

(d) Citizens probably choose violence because they feel it's a quicker way to get their point across. And if you are scared of something you are more likely to listen and follow orders than go against it. They feel like they have more power over people in this way.

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Question 7

Overview

The intent of this question was for students to compare types of political participation, including conventional forms and violence. Using information from a table, students had to (a) identify and explain a difference between the types of conventional forms of participation in Nigeria and those in Great Britain; (b) identify and explain a second difference between conventional forms of participation in Nigeria and those in Great Britain; (c) describe one specific incident of violent political activity in Great Britain in the last fifteen years and one specific incident of violent political activity in Nigeria in the last fifteen years; and (d) explain why citizens of both countries might choose violent acts over more conventional forms of political participation. The skills tested were both descriptive and analytical: to interpret a table, describe, identify and explain.

Sample: 7A

Score: 7

In part (a) the response earned 1 point for identifying a difference in the level of conventional participation as “citizens in Britain are much more inclined to sign petitions than are citizens in Nigeria.” One point was also earned for explaining that “British citizens have greater political efficacy than do Nigerian citizens.”

In part (b) 1 point was earned for identifying a difference in the level of conventional participation: “a greater percentage of Britons vote than do Nigerians.” Another point was earned for the explanation that in Nigeria there have been “many allegations of such things as ballot-box-stuffing.”

In part (c) 1 point was earned for describing a specific incident of violent political activity in Great Britain as “the terrorist bombings in London in 2005.” One point was also earned for describing a specific incident of violent political activity in Nigeria: “violence erupted in 2007 when citizens who were outraged about the allegations of electoral fraud took to the streets and clashed with the police.”

In part (d) the response earned 1 point for explaining that citizens in both countries might use violent acts over more conventional forms of participation because “government is unresponsive” and “they have been marginalized by the political process.”

Sample: 7B

Score: 4

In part (a) 1 point was earned for identifying a difference in conventional participation: “A large difference between Great Britain and Nigeria is the voter turnout. Great Britain’s is at 61% while Nigeria’s is at 49%.” Another point was earned for the explanation that “people in the UK believe that elections are legitimate. They know that the votes would have been counted fairly and would be free of fraud.”

In part (b) 1 point was earned for identifying a difference in conventional participation — “signing a petition” — as “[t]he UK is at 81% while Nigeria is only at 7%.” The response also earned 1 point for explaining that in Great Britain “the government will look at” a petition.

In part (c) “the IRA in Northern Ireland” is not put in a specific context, and therefore no point was earned. Also, the statement about military coups does not describe a specific incident of violence and therefore earned no point.

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Question 7 (continued)

In part (d) the response notes that violence in Great Britain is “a way to get their point across in a big way,” which is a correct explanation that violence garners attention. However, the discussion of Nigeria inaccurately states that violence is used when “the government was weak.” Therefore no point was earned.

Sample: 7C

Score: 1

In part (a) the response does not identify a difference between the levels of conventional participation, and the explanation does not refer to a factor given in the table; therefore, no points were earned.

In part (b) 1 point was earned for identifying a difference in the forms of conventional participation by stating that “[i]n signing a petition Great Britian [*sic*] has more participation.”

In part (c) the response does not describe a specific incident of political violence for either country and therefore earned no points.

In part (d) the statement that violence is “a quicker way to get their point across” is overly broad, and therefore no points were earned.